



Biography

United States Navy

Captain Burt L. Espe **Commander**

Port Hueneme Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center

Captain Burt L. Espe serves as Commander for Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Port Hueneme Division. In this role, he oversees more than 1,900 personnel, executes a budget in excess of \$530 million, is the Navy's Combat System Ship Qualification Trial Certification Authority (CSSQT), MK 92 Fire Control System Program Manager and responsible for the remote controlled destroyer, EX-PAUL F. FOSTER.

Previously, Captain Espe served as the Modernization Principal Integration Platform Manager in the Ship Integration Program Office, PMW 760, for the Program Executive Officer, Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (PEO C4I) in San Diego, Calif. In this capacity, he was responsible for the integration and modernization of PEO C4I systems aboard Surface Ships, including coordination with major Navy Weapons and HM&E systems. Additionally, he oversaw the integration of PEO C4I systems in support of the Missile Defense Authority's, Aegis Ashore Program.

Captain Espe graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1987, with a bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering, and joined the active Fleet in the Surface Warfare Community. His initial sea tours were served aboard USS Sample (FF1048) as the Combat Information Center Officer, and in USS Badger (FF 1071) as the Anti-submarine Warfare Officer and the ship's Navigator, both moored in Pearl Harbor.

From USS Badger, Captain Espe received orders to Beachmaster Unit ONE (BMU 1) in Coronado, Calif., where he served as the Operations Officer and First Lieutenant during the first Gulf War. From BMU 1, he received orders to attend the Naval Post Graduate School in 1995, where he earned a master's in Electrical Engineering.

Following graduation, Captain Espe served aboard USS John A. Moore (FFG 19), home ported in San Diego, Calif., reporting as Operations Officer. For his second department-head tour, he received orders to serve aboard USS Denver (LPD 9) as the Operations Officer.

After USS Denver, Captain Espe served as plank owner and Deputy Director for C4ISR Concept Development for the Navy Warfare Development Command (NWDC) at the Naval War College. Upon completion of duty at NWDC, he reported to USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) as Executive Officer, home ported in San Diego.

Upon leaving USS Harpers Ferry, Captain Espe served as Operations Officer for USS Nassau (LHA 4), home ported in Norfolk, Va., where he completed a 9-month deployment to the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Returning to shore duty, Captain Espe was assigned to Commander, Space and Warfare System Command in San Diego, Calif. There he served as Deputy Director for Corporate Planning, Operations & Command Information Office.

Captain Espe was then assigned as the Prospective Commanding Officer of the USS Green Bay (LPD 20), in construction at Avondale, La. However, due to building delays, he was reassigned as the Commanding Officer in USS Comstock (LSD 45), home ported in San Diego, Calif.

From Comstock, Captain Espe transitioned into the SWO Acquisition Community, and was assigned to PEO IWS, where he served as Deputy/Acting, System Integration Program Manager for Mine, Amphibious, Auxiliary and Command Ships.

Captain Espe's personal decorations include four Meritorious Service Medals, four Navy Commendation Medals and the Navy Achievement Medal, as well as various unit and service awards. He and his wife Debbie Discar-Espe reside in Bonita, Calif. Their daughter is an Ensign serving aboard USS Arleigh Burke, and their son is a student at High Tech High Media Arts in Point Loma, Calif.

